



# TOBACCO FACTS

**Smoking is the Number 1 preventable cause of premature disease and death in the United States, killing 434,000 people (plus 53,000 nonsmokers) each year one of every five American deaths.**  
(U.S. Centers for Disease Control, 1997)

**Smoking causes 30% of heart disease and cancer deaths, and 80% of emphysema deaths.**  
(Education Development Center, Inc., 1982)

**Tobacco smoke contains 4,000 chemicals, 43 of which cause cancer.**  
(Surgeon General's Report, 1989)

**In California, 18.5% of the adult population (4 million) still smoke.**  
(California Adult Tobacco Survey and Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, 1996)

**Each year, 20 million people try to quit smoking in the United States, but only 3% quit for good.**  
(Pierce, et. al., 1989)

**Smoking results in an annual cost of more than \$50 billion in direct medical costs.**  
(U.S. Centers for Disease Control, 1997)

**Several studies have found nicotine to be as addictive as heroin, cocaine, or alcohol.**  
(Henningfield, et. al., 1990)

**Over 80% of smokers say that they would like to quit smoking.**  
(Gallup Organization, 1991)

**The tobacco industry loses two million smokers each year because they quit smoking or die, but are replaced by 3,000 young people who begin smoking every day.**  
(USDHHS, 1994)

**90% of all smokers begin smoking by the age of 19; 60% by 14.**  
(USDHHS, 1994)

**Although it is illegal to sell tobacco to minors, retailers sell cigarettes to them 78% of the time.**  
(FDA, 1997)

**There is no safe cigarette.**  
(American Lung Association, 1998)

**Pregnant women who smoke increase their risk of miscarriage, stillbirth, and low birth weight babies. Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is also higher in smoker households.**  
(USDHHS, 1990)

**Lung cancer has overtaken breast cancer as the leading cancer killer of American women, due to the rise of women smoking since World War II.**  
(OCHCA, 1994)

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## COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY TOBACCO USE PREVENTION PROGRAM

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